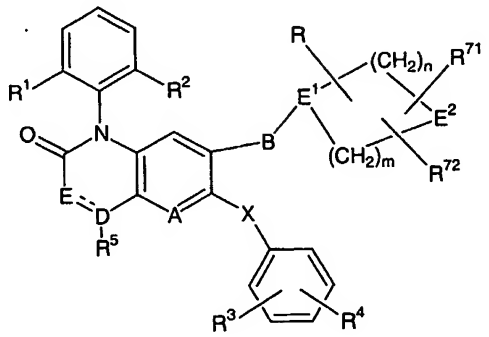
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound represented by chemical formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

A is N, or CH;

B is -C_{1-6}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-O-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-NH-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-S-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-PH-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-C(O)-C_{0-3}alkyl-, or a direct bond;

X is -C_{1-6}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-O-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-NH-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-S-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-PH-C_{0-3}alkyl-, -C_{0-3}alkyl-C(O)-C_{0-3}alkyl-, or a direct bond;

D is C or N;

E is N, O, NH, CH_2, or CH;

R, R^{71}, and R^{72} each independently is hydrogen, OH, -C_{0-4}alkyl-O-C_{0-4}alkyl-, -C_{0-4}alkyl-C(O)-C_{0-4}alkyl-, -C_{0-4}alkyl-C(O)-O-C_{0-4}alkyl-, or C_{1-4}alkyl, any alkyl optionally substituted with 1-6 groups, each group independently being –OH, -NH_2, -NH-CH_3, -N(CH_3)2, or halogen;

n is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

n+m is 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; optionally, one of n CH_2 and one of m CH_2 are bridged by a –C_{0-2}alkyl- linkage;

E^1 is CH, N, or CR^6;

E^2 is CH2, CHR, NH, NR, O, S, -S(O)-, or -S(O)2-;

R^1 is halogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^6 are each independently halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, or hydrogen; and

R^5 is H, CH_3, or CH_2CH_3..

2. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein A is N.

3. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N;

D is C; and

E is NH.

4. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N;

D is C;

E is NH; and

X is -C_{0-3}alkyl-S-C_{0-3}alkyl-.

5. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N;

D is C;

E is NH;

X is -C_{0-3}alkyl-S-C_{0-3}alkyl-; and

B is a direct bond.

6. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E^1 is N; and

E^2 is NR.

7. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E^1 is N;

E^2 is NR; and

one of n CH_2 and one of m CH_2 are bridged by a $-C_{0-2}$alkyl– linkage.

8. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E^1 is N; and

E^2 is O.

9. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E^1 is N; and

E^2 is CHR.

10. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N;

D is C;

E is NH;

X is -C_{0-3}alkyl-S-C_{0-3}alkyl-; and

B is NH.

11. The compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E^1 is CH; and

E^2 is NR.

12. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N;

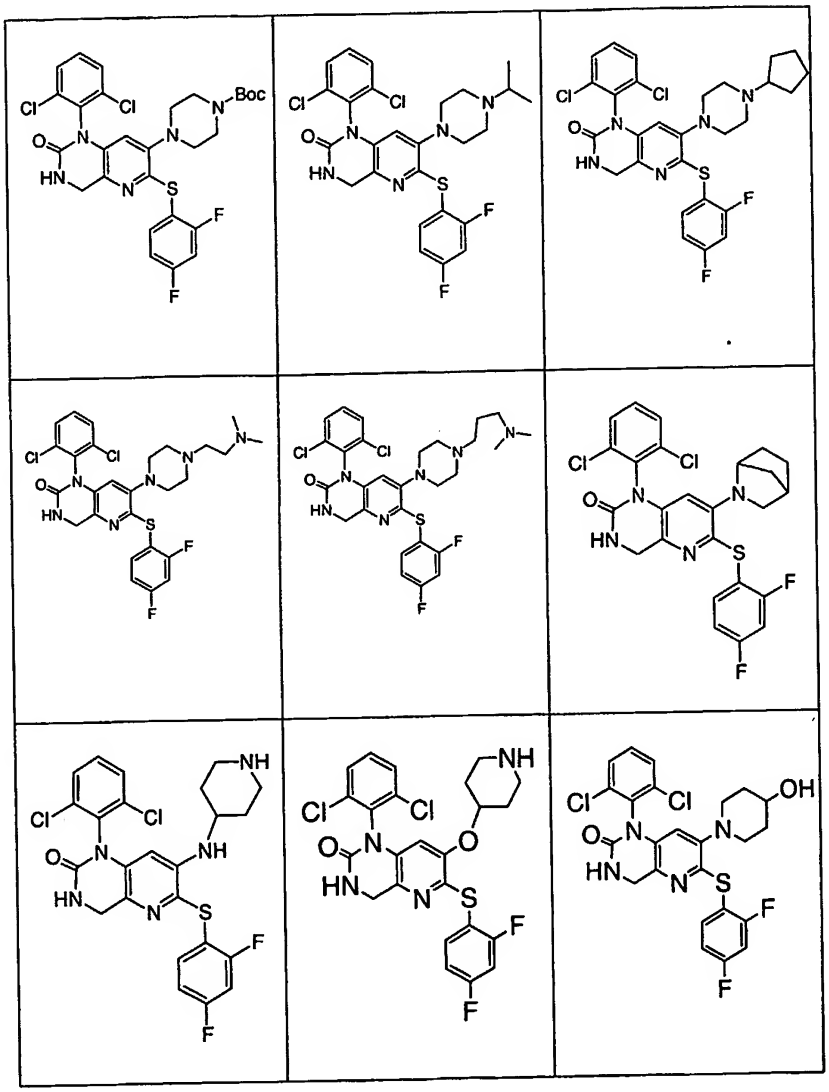
D is C;

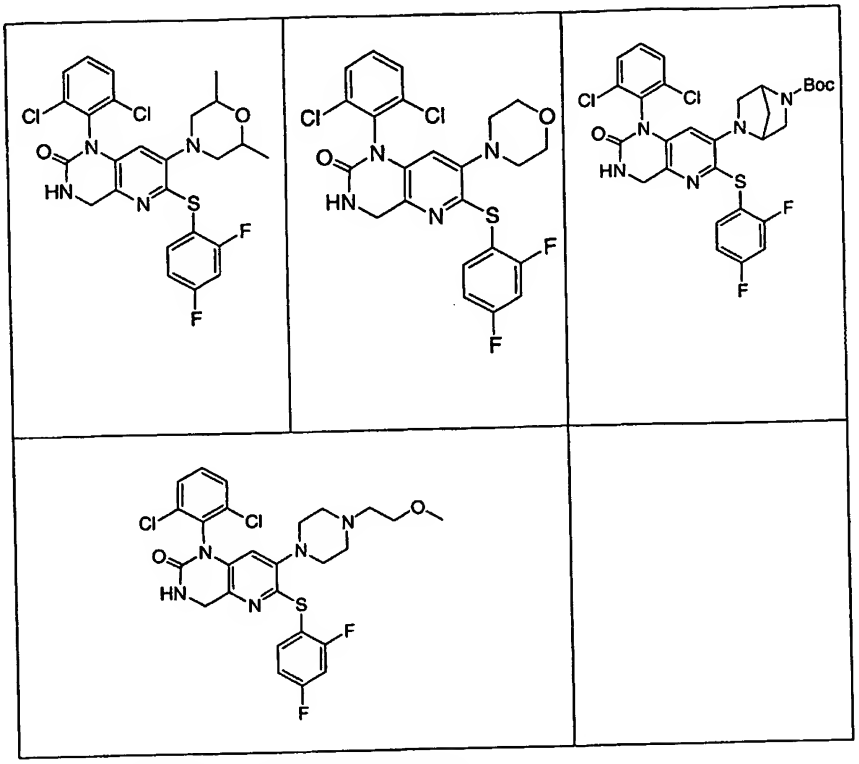
E is NH;

X is -C_{0-3}alkyl-S-C_{0-3}alkyl-; and

B is -C_{0-3}alkyl-O-C_{0-3}alkyl-

13. The compound according to claim 1, represented by





or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inert carrier and an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

15. A method of treating pain comprising a step of administering an effective amount of the composition according to claim 14.

16. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, or gouty arthritis comprising a step of administering an effective amount of the composition according to claim 14.

17. A method of treating sepsis, septic shock, endotoxic shock, gram negative sepsis, toxic shock syndrome, adult respiratory distress syndrome, cerebral malaria, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, silicosis, pulmonary sarcoidosis, bone resorption diseases, osteoporosis, reperfusion injury, graft v. host rejection, allograft rejection, fever, myalgia due to infection, cachexia secondary to infection or

malignancy, cachexia secondary to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS, ARC (AIDs related complex), keloid formation, scar tissue formation, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, pyresis, or viral infections comprising a step of administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

18. A method of treating inflamed joints, eczema, psoriasis, inflammatory skin conditions, inflammatory eye conditions, or pyresis comprising a step of administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.